

Message Text

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22

ORIGIN DOTE-00

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APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:JWILKINSON

DOT/TPI-1:RHBINDER

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, OTRA, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: MARINE
PANEL 2 - ICE TRANSITING VESSELS (05.0502)

REF: MOSCOW 17991

1. DOT AND MARAD SHARE EMBASSY DISAPPOINTMENT IN DUBCHAK
RESPONSE AND DESIRE TO CANCEL VISIT. WE DO NOT ACCEPT,
AND EMBASSY SHOULD RESIST, WHAT HAS SURFACED BEFORE AS A
SOVIET PLOY TO AVOID DIFFICULT SITUATIONS BY THE CLAIM THAT
THE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION IS OUTSIDE A PARTICULAR
MINISTRY'S COMPETENCE. SUCH A CLAIM MAY HAVE VALIDITY IN
CERTAIN SITUATIONS BUT NOT WHERE THE SCST IS THE COORDI-
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NATING SOVIET ENTITY. THIS MINISTERIAL COP-OUT TECHNIQUE

HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A U.S. COMPLAINT AT AN EARLIER JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING AND WILL BE RAISED AGAIN. FURTHER, DUBCHAK'S RESPONSE THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE "FORMAL" PRESENTATIONS ON ADVANCED PROPULSION SYSTEMS IS ANOTHER COP-OUT TECHNIQUE. APART FROM SOVIET SYSTEM'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO "CRASH" (HARDLY THE CASE HERE AS THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN AWARE OF OUR INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT FOR MORE THAN A MONTH) REQUIREMENTS, THERE IS, IN DOT'S OPINION, TOO MUCH RELIANCE ON THE "FORMAL" ASPECT OF THE PRESENTATION. IF SOVIETS WISHED TO BE

FORTHCOMING, THEY WOULD AT LEAST EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS. DOT VIEWS DUBCHAK RESPONSE AS ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE SOVIETS KNOW THAT ICE TRANSITING IS ONE OF FEW AREAS WHERE THERE IS POTENTIAL PAY-OFF FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE. FURTHER, DUBCHAK'S "DISAPPOINTMENT" WITH U.S. PERFORMANCE UNDER AGREEMENT (PARA. 9, REFTEL) IS NOT WELL GROUNDED. EMBASSY SHOULD RECALL SOVIET CANCELLATION OF ARCTIC NORTHERN SEA ROUTE PROJECT ON SPECIOUS BASIS THAT IT COULD UNDESIRABLY INFLUENCE U.N. LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE. (SEE MOSCOW 7931).

2. AS FOR DUBCHAK CLAIM CONCERNING WAVE STUDY APPARATUS, THERE NEVER WAS A COMMITMENT CONCERNING EQUIPMENT. THE ORIGINAL PLAN TO CONDUCT THE JOINT INVESTIGATION OF SEA WAVE SPECTRA WAS CANCELLED AT THE U.S. SUGGESTION BECAUSE OF A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE AVAILABLE MEASURING EQUIPMENT. EMBASSY SHOULD RECALL DUBCHAK LETTER (MOSCOW 13579) AND PRIOR PITKIN-DUBCHAK CORRESPONDENCE THIS SUBJECT MENTIONED THEREIN.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TRANSMIT FOLLOWING RAMUNDO LETTER TO ISHCHENKO WITH COPY TO AYKAZIAN:

4. 05.0502 NOVEMBER 19, 1976

VALENTIN Y. ISHCHENKO
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, USSR SECTION
US-USSR JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

I REGRET TO ADVISE YOU THAT, IN VIEW OF THE FAILURE OF THE SOVIET SIDE TO ARRANGE A MORE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT OF A U.S. DELEGATION (MARINE PANEL 2) AS PROPOSED BY THE U.S. SIDE, WE FEEL CONSTRAINED TO CANCEL THE VISIT. AS I INDICATED DURING OUR MEETING IN JUNE, WE DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO EXPEND ON VISITS OR

EXCHANGES THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER SUBSTANTIVELY WORTH-
WHILE. WE ARE ESPECIALLY DISAPPOINTED BY THE TONE OF THE
SOVIET SIDE'S RESPONSE WHICH REFLECTS A FORMALISTIC
APPROACH IN REJECTING THE U.S. SIDE'S PROPOSAL. I REFER

HERE SPECIFICALLY TO MR. DUBCHAK'S CLAIM THAT (A) CERTAIN
VISITS DESIRED BY THE U.S. SIDE COULD NOT BE ARRANGED
BECAUSE OF A LACK OF MINISTERIAL COMPETENCE TO MAKE THE
ARRANGEMENTS AND (B) THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE
A "FORMAL" PRESENTATION ON A SUBJECT SUGGESTED BY THE U.S.
SIDE. NEITHER OF THE FOREGOING ARE PERSUASIVE. SCST

CERTAINLY HAS THE AUTHORITY AND SHOULD, AS THE COORDI-
NATING AGENCY FOR THE SOVIET SIDE, MAKE ANY ARRANGEMENTS
THAT REQUIRE OTHER MINISTERIAL INVOLVEMENT. DOT DOES IT
FOR THE U.S. SIDE AND CANNOT ACCEPT A LACK OF RECIPROCITY
IN THIS REGARD. FURTHER, AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WE
BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT INSUFFICIENT TIME IS HARDLY A VALID
REASON IN GENERAL AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE HAS BEEN
MORE THAN ONE MONTH FOR PREPARATION. MOREOVER, THE
PRESENTATION COULD BE SOMETHING LESS THAN "FORMAL" IF THE
SOVIET SIDE REALLY DESIRED TO BE FORTHCOMING IN THIS
MATTER. IN ANY CASE, I AM SURE THAT, UNLESS THE SOVIET
SIDE RECONSIDERS ITS POSITION, WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE
HANDLING OF THIS VISIT DURING THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE PROBLEM OF COORDINATION OF
MINISTERIAL ACTIVITY BY SCST WAS RAISED DURING THE LAST
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH DIFFICULTIES
IN ARRANGING VISITS TO INSTITUTES RELEVANT TO THE WORK
OF THE TRANSPORT CONSTRUCTION WORKING GROUP.

PLEASE ADVISE MR. DUBCHAK OF OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH HIS
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RESPONSE AND, BASED THEREON, OUR DECISION TO CANCEL THE
VISIT AND LEAVE, FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE NEXT JOINT
COMMITTEE MEETING, THE QUESTION OF FUTURE COOPERATION IN
THIS AND THE OTHER MARITIME AREAS.

BERNARD A. RAMUNDO
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, US SECTION
US-USSR JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

5. EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTED TRANSMIT FOLLOWING BINDER
LETTER TO ALEKSENKO:

6. NOVEMBER 22, 1976 05.0502

G. V. ALEKSENKO

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, STATE COMMITTEE FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST)
CHAIRMAN, USSR SECTION, US-USSR JOINT
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

I HAVE BEEN PLEASED ABOUT OUR JOINT PROGRESS IN A NUMBER
OF IMPORTANT AREAS, BUT I AM DISAPPOINTED BY THE LACK OF
PROGRESS IN WORKING OUT A SUFFICIENTLY SUBSTANTIVE
PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT OF A U.S. DELEGATION IN THE ICE
TRANSITING AREA. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS VISIT HAD TO BE
POSTPONED ONCE BECAUSE THE PROGRAM FOR THE DELEGATION WAS
NOT SUBSTANTIVE ENOUGH FOR US TO JUSTIFY THE EXPENSE OF

SENDING A DELEGATION TO YOUR COUNTRY. SUBSEQUENT
EXCHANGES OF CORRESPONDENCE DID NOT IMPROVE THE SITUATION
ENOUGH, AND WE HAVE DECIDED FOR THE TIME BEING TO CANCEL
THE VISIT. I REGRET THIS ACTION, BUT WE MUST OBSERVE
THE AGREEMENT PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT IN MAKING
DECISIONS OF THIS TYPE.

WE ARE ADVISED THAT IN THIS CASE THE MARITIME MINISTRY WAS
UNABLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS
IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. BECAUSE THAT MINISTRY LACKED
JURISDICTION OVER THE VARIOUS SOVIET AGENCIES INVOLVED.
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I WOULD HOPE THAT, ON THE BASIS OF OUR DISCUSSION OF THIS
TYPE OF CASE AT OUR LAST MEETING, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
FOR YOU TO EXERT THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE COMMITTEE TO
ASSURE A WORTHWHILE AGENDA FOR THIS DELEGATION VISIT,
WHICH I HOPE CAN BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, PERHAPS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.
I INVITE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE MATTER CONSISTENT
WITH THE PRACTICE WE HAVE DEVELOPED IN WHAT I REGARD AS
AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

ROBERT HENRI BINDER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICY,
PLANS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ROBINSON

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